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In this issue :

Scenes of the VNPA Combatants' Life

THE FOUNDING, DEVELOPMENT AND PRESENT TASKS OF THE VIET NAM PEOPLE'S ARMY

- Interview granted by General VO NGUYEN GIAP to the review Militiarwesen of the German Democratic Republic -

OUESTION 1:

WHAT was the national and international context of the founding of the Viet Nam People's Army?

ANSWER :

THE Viet Nam people's armed forces came into being as the result of the firm, sound and creative leadership of the Viet Nam Workers' Party headed by President Ho Chi Minh. It was linked with the successful development of the Vietnamese Revolution in the context of the unceasing the opportunity of the unceasing the opportunity of the president of the proposed of the proposed of the president of the president of the proposed of the president of t world revolutionary movement.

the world revolutionary movement.

Our nation, endowed with a long and glorious history, has acquired in the course of its thousands of years of construction and combat, traditions of unyielding resistance to-foreign aggressors of all denominations. More recently, during the past eighty years of the French International Company of the President rose up incessantly against aggressors and their lackeys.

Since the beginning of the 20th century, especially since the victory of the Great October Revolution in

Russia which ushered in a new era in mankind's history, the Victnamese Revolution has witnessed new develRevolution has witnessed new develMinh himself, our leader of genius, the great patriot of the Victnamese nation, who blazed the trail for our entire country with the light of Marxism-Leninism and founded our improvement of the property of t

As early as 1930, the very year of its birth, our Party already laid down the judicious line for the Vietnamese Revolution: to carry out the stage of capitalist development. Having grasped the Marxist-Leninist theory of violent revolution, by pointed out the only correct revolutionary method to remove the yoke in their pay, as well as the necessity in their pay, as well as the necessity of the pay as the payment of t of the imperialists and the feudalists in their pay, as well as the necessity of opposing revolutionary violence to counter-revolutionary violence to counter-revolutionary violence to the counter-revolutionary violence to the counter-revolution of the

In the revolutionary tide sweep-

ing the whole country in the years 1930-1931 elimaxing in the establishment of the Nighe-Timl Soviet (Nghe An and Ha Tinh provinces £d.), self-defence groups of workers and peasants were set up with the participation of elite elements fall of revolutionary zeal and bravery workers and peasants association and the Young Communists' League, etc. These red self-defence formations etc. These red self-defence formations were just the first seeds of the revo-lutionary armed forces of our

Dring the years of the Second World War, whilst the Soviet people and the other peoples in the world united to resist the German, Italian and Japanese fascists, a Italian and Japanese fascists, a launched in our country to overthrow the French colonialists and drive out the Japanese fascists. In face of the rapid evolution of the international rapid evolution of the international put into effect the Party's revolutionary line, preparations for an armed insurrection became a pressing task. Our Party switched from the political struggle to the armed organisation to the building of semi-armed and armed organisations of semi-armed and armed organisations and the building of revolutionary bases. the building of revolutionary bases.

Thus, the first revolutionary

armed organisations of the Viet-namese people came into being one after another: the guerilla detach-ment of Bac Son (1940), the guerilla detachment for the Cochinchina Insurrection (1940), units of the Insurrection (1940), units of the National Salvation Army (1941), the propaganda detachment of the Viet Nam Liberation Army (1941) Nam Liberation Army (1944), the guerilla detachment of Ba To (1945), etc. December 22, 1944, date of the consider 22, 1944, date of the founding of the propaganda detachment of the Viet Nam Liberation Army on direct instructions from Comrade Ho Chi Minh, is regarded as the founding day of the Viet Nam People's Army.

In March 1945, the Japanese fas-cists succeeded through a coup de force in outsing the French colonial-ists and seizing the whole Indochin-iese peninsula for themselves. The struggle of our people against Japanese occupation, for national salvation, vigourously developed heavier and heavier losses on the enemy. From North to South, in the upsurge of the efforts against the upsurge of the efforts against the Japanese fascists, the people's revolutionary organisations, guerilla detachments and anti-Japanese bases multiplied quickly Anti-Japanese multiplied quickly. Anti-Japanese guerilla was active everywhere.

(Continued page 4)

A manoeuvre of the Viet Nam People's Army



25th FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIET NAM PEOPLE'S ARMY

Vietnamese people's accept-ance of the US-installed rotten and fascist adminis tration. As for the US pilots detained in North Viet Nam in his December 15 speech Mr Nixon gave a completely false picture of their condition and distorted the human tion and distorted the human-itarian policy of the DRVN Government. These US pilots had come to bomb North Viet Nam, and had perpetratthe Vietnamese people. They were caught in the act and are and allowed to correspond US pilots to commit crimes against the Vietnamese peo

ple and caused sufferings to their families. The great crime of the US authorities

settle the Viet Nam problem

as a whole so as to permit these captured pilots to return to their families. On

the contrary the Nixon ad-

the contrary, the Nixon administration has been making use of this issue to arouse public opinion and to cover up the US aggressors' monstrous crimes against the South Vietnamese people."

Mr Ha Van Lau flayed the

Nixon administration's lack

of goodwill and seriousness at the Paris Conference,

clinging to the absord claim

for "mutual troop with-drawal" and attempt to maintain the Thieu-Ky-Khiem

heuchmen. Mr Nixon refuses to appoint a new chief dele-

gate to the Conference and

tries to downgrade the Paris Conference and eventually to

sabotage it. The full respon-sibility for the prolongation of the war in Viet Nam and

for the continued deadlock

of the Paris Conference lies with the US government, Mr

THE US air force made 850 sorties with manned or

unmanned planes and

Ha Van Lau concluded

47th Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (Dec. 18, 1969)

Mr HA VAN LAU SEVERELY SCORES THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION'S WAR-LIKE POLICY

themselves in the course of their long history by their successful resistance to various foreign invasions and who have not less successfully faced up to US aggression for

After castigating Mr Nixon's "three criteria for US with-drawal", the DRVN repre-sentative commented that Nixon's decision to pull out another 50,000 US troops by April 15 next year was part of the policy of drop-by-drop troop reduction, prolongation of the occupation of South Viet Nam by US troops and prosecution of the war. He said even if this decision were carried out, then the rhythm of withdrawal would still remain very slow and by Awil part year there would remain no less than 434,000 aggressors to continue wreaking destruction and

Rejecting Mr Nixon's claim that a precipitate withdrawal will mean a "defeat and humiliation" for the United states, Mr Ha Van Lau made it clear that as a matter of fact the Vietnamese people had no intention to humiliate anybody, but they only wanted to regain genuine peace and independence for their country, to live on friendly terms with the on American people and the peoples of other countries in the world. The honour of the United States would be saved by promptly putting an end to the illegal and costly of aggression in South Viet Nam.

The DRVN envoy went on "As far as the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people is concerned, Mr Nixon still sets his face against the fair and reasonable proposal of the NFL and the RSVN PRG for the formation of a provi sional coalition government which would be in charge of general elections in South Viet Nam. He also goes on urging the maintenance of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem adminand the South

ed uncountable crimes against subject to the jurisdiction the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. Yet. our Government has been applying a human-itarian policy towards them, the wounded and the sick have been given medical care, the others also well treated with their families It is the

that fails, "Victnamization of the war". He also charged the Vietnamese people with refusing to negotiate seriously, with attempting to impose defeat and humiliation" on the United States and 'maltreating' the American pilots captured in Viet Nam. It was obviously psycholo-gical warfare. He also made known that the US did not name a successor to Cabot Lodge at the head of the US delegation at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam. This alone sufficed to show the

lack of good faith on the

US part in the effort to find

a political solution.

for a "fair"

'just peace", a "settlement

through negotiation" and if

Hanoi Press Opinion

Concerning the "Vietnamization" of the war plan, Nixon claimed that he had got a "much more favourable report with regard to the training of South Vietnamese forces" and that US casualties "continue to be at the lowest rate", thus making it possible to effect another reduction of American combat troops. Hethreatened that if the South Vietnamese people stepped up their fight for self-liberation the US "shall not hesitate to take strong and effective measures". On the other hand, Nixon promised that the US would be "flexible and forthcoming" if the Vietnamese people were willing to "talk seriously" which means in effect to accept US absurd terms.

Mr Nixon's December 15 address was just the playing back of an old record. It gave no indication that the US would stop its obdurate give up its neo-colonialist policy. However, the speech did draw attention to two points.

Firstly, the US President invoked Robert Thompson's

MR Nixon once again tried to sell his search book to prove that his "Vietnamization" of the

NIXON'S DECEMBER 15 ANNOUNCEMENT

war plan was a "success". Thompson is a British officer who helped the US set up "strategic hamlets" in South Viet Nam and who later packed up after the special war" had failed. Thompson is now hired by Nixon to peddle his "Vietnamization"

Secondly, Nixon announced the reduction of 50,000 more US troops by April 15. 1070, describing it as another orderly step in our plan for peace." fact, it is another move in the US scheme to prolong the war. As made clear by American public opinion, the point is not to pull out 25,000, 35,000 or 50,000 US troops. The point is that will remain over there 400,000 US troops and 60,000 troops of US satellites after

the troop cut. Meanwhile, the war continues. Compared to the total of US expeditionary forces existing in South Viet Nam or to remain in South Viet Nam the US troops already withdrawn or to be withdrawn only represent a small portion. When asked by a journalist on June 19 last to comment on ex-Defence Secretary C. Clifford's view that 100,000 US troops should be pulled out this year. Nixon stated that he would "beat Clifford's time-table". The fact is that in 1969 the US only pulls out 60,000 troops.

Public opinion in the United States has complained that troop cuts of the Nixonian type are "too slow and too small " (UPI, Dec.16). The AFP Saigon correspondent reported that many GIs "ironically" commented on Nixon's address, and

quoted an American Army sergeant as saying, "Nixon's just throwing people a bone for Christmas.

It is clear that Nixon's decision to withdraw some more troops is only political sop for home consumption, not an effort to end the war We denounce to world public opinion the US scheme to prolong the war and the barbarous crimes committed by the US, puppet and satellite troops against the South Vietnamese people typical of which are the bloodbaths in Son My, Ba Lang An, Kong H'Ring and many other places. We protest against the obdurate attitude of the US government at the Paris

The Vietnamese people's

position expounded in the four points of the DRVN Government and the tenpoint overall solution of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, is a principled and just one which enjoys broad sympathy and support in the world. Their serious and good-will attitude recently found further expression in the statement Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh of the RSVN PRG that in case the US accepted withdraw from South Viet Nam all its troops within six months, then the parties would discuss the pull-out time-table and the guarantee of security for US troops. Nixon's rejection of this proposal shows that the US is unwilling to bring home totally and unconditionally the US troops from South Viet Nam and that instead it persists in demanding a price for such a step from the Vietnamese

Nhan Dan (The People)

US Crimes in North Viet Nam in November

unmanned planes and carried out 420 reconnaissance missions over North Viet Nam: 15 in Nghe An, 60 in Ha Tinh, 100 in Quang Binh, 220 in Vinh Linh and 25 in other areas north of the 10th parallel, including 4 over Hanoi and 5 over Haiphong. F. 4, F. 105, AD. 6 tactical

planes and B.52 strategic bombers launched 24 attacks on the populated areas be-tween the 17th and 19th parallels, on November 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17, 23, 25 and 28,

In Nghe An province: US jets bombed successively many hamlets of Nam Can village, Ky Son district. On Nov. 11, at 6 a.m. two AD.6s rocketed Cha Lat village. On Nov. 12, at 10 a.m. and

4 p.m., eight AD.6s dropped demolition bombs and CBUs on Huoi Phong, Huoi Lao, Cheng and Ai Khe, causing Cheng and Al Khe, causing 8 casualties among the inhab-itants and burning their devellings and belongings. Huoi Phong gutted by fire.

In Ha Tinh province: On Nov. 28, at 1 p.m., US aircraft strafed Huong Son district.

In Quang Binh province: On Nov. 11, from 9.45 a.m. to noon, nine F.4s and two F.105s mounted six raids on Minh Hoa district, releasing 46 explosive bombs of various sizes and 7,800 pellet bombs: 12 people were wounded. On

Nov. 11 and 15, twelve B.525 carried out carpet bombings, pouring 360 tons of explo-sives on the same district: 21 casualties were recorded and a number of houses and property burnt.

In Vinh Linh area: On Nov. 10, at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Nov. 10, at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. four armed helicopters strafed Minh Phuoc co-operative (Vinh Son village) by 12.7 mm and 20 mm guns, damaging some dwelling houses. On Nov. 12. at ng houses. On 180v. 12, at 10 p.m. six B.52s carpet bom-bed Huong Lap village, pouring on 180 tons of ex-plosives.

On Nov. 14, 16, 17, 18, 21,

22, 25 and 27, long-range guns based on warships of guns based on warships of the 7th Fleet and south of 200 shells on the villages of Vinh Quang, Vinh Son and Vinh Tuong; Vinh Quang alone was hit by about 160 shells.

Every day, from 15 to 20 US warships would cruise off Ouvnh Luu seacoast (Nghe An province) and Cua Tung (Vinh Linh), threatening the activities of fishermen. On Nov. 21, 25 and 29, in particular, they crossed the 19th parallel and were seen 20km off Thanh Hoa seashore.

VIET NAM COURIER

25th FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIET NAM PEOPLE'S ARMY

SCENES OF THE VNPA COMBATANTS' LIFE

The Race Is On

THE 3,300th US plane has been brought down over North Viet Nam, but the race is on between gunner Le Van Long who has taken part in 887 engagements and Nguyen Xuan Long, a spotter who has been directly involved in nearly one thousand fights with the Yankees. It is a contest of combat skill. Whereas Le Van Long or "Big Long" who insists on continuing as gunner No I (not u itil the US unconditionally ceased. US unconditionally ceased the bombardment of North Viet Nam did he agree to take charge of the whole battery) has been active for 2 years and 7 months without receiving a single wound,
"Little Long" is passionately
fond of his spotting job.
Over the past 4 years, both
Long have been chosen to
attend the annual congress of model fighters of the Song Gianh A-A artillery. "Little Long" has been decorated. So been "Big Long". Long" has been unanimously elected by the unit a while "Little Long" has been given the same title by the whole outfit.

At the combat position of Company 4, often at noon time under the blazing sun, "Big Long" is seen revolving his gun and taking a sight in the direction of the sun, at first for 5 or 10 seconds, and later for 2 or 3 minutes. Meanwhile, at Company 2.
"Little Long" is busy taking

say that he has the best ever eye sight in the Song Gianh detachment. Often enough, from a very great distance and sent back accurate reports to the company leader. While observing enemy planes on a dive-bomb ing run, he is not only able to report unerringly on the distance, speed, etc... but with calm he can also foresee where this or that string o bombs will land. Company leader Nguyen Viet Ran leader Nguyen view regards as completely relia-ble the observation results given by "Little Long". In was sure that a CBU was about to hit the gun about to hit the site. Ram accordingly necessary and timely safety precautions and nebody was

detachment have learnt a lot from this contest of battle ebill Everybody still remembers that on August 7, 1965, as gunner No 5, "Big Long" used his body to cover the used his body to cover the loading device during an action. A little more than a month later, he again protected his wounded comrade Ho Si Duong with his own body. He likes to offer to body. He likes to offer to share with civilians his fox-hole when there is an alert. During a night rain, he alone moved all the 50 munition cases off the water-logged area to allow his comrades to have a good sleep.

Fighters of the Song Gianh

become an interesting topi for officers and men of th Song Gianh A-A artillery to study. What prompted "Big Long" to accomplish his job as gunner No r with this one-thousand-day period? Why has "Little Long" been able to spot the enemy planes (often with only his naked eye) so quickly and so accurately when they still look like tiny pinheads? All that secret should be found out.

The battle of September 8

1967 was a case in point. Once

again spotter Neuven Xuan

Long succeeded in locating 2 F. 4C's. Within seconds, all gun barrels of the unit were trained in the direction of the incoming planes. "Little Long" kept a keen eye on the moving targets. He let them in closer and closer, 15 km, 10 km, 5 km and finally within firing range. finally within firing range.

The go-signal given, the whole unit opened up. The lead plane was cut down on the spot in the very rounds of ack-ack fire and its pilot captured. "Little Long" was again rated first among the family of spotters for this remarkable feat. The race is on between "Big Long" and "Little Long" who are honing their skills through training, maintain high vigilance and standing ready at all times to wipe out the US aggressors any-where the Fatherland wants

Now, the story about "Big Long" has | Cultural and Artistic Activities at Anti-Aircraft Automatic Gun Company S.

COMPANY S. is as good in combat as it is in cultural and art activ-ities. When preparing for an operation, the company

an operation, the company not only painstakingly sees to its weaponry and food supplies, but also carefully plans its cultural and art activities in the field. In the men's packs there are also bamboo flutes, and make-shift mandolins, and books, everything kent in good shape. It seems these things lighten the knapsacks. Mernighten the knapsacks. Mer-ry songs help quicken the pace of the fighting men going up the line. Even under rains of bombs and shells, the combatants' mood remains gay and cheerful.

Once Platoon 2 cut down an enemy plane in the very first rounds of automatic weapons fire, The Truong, Cong Chinh, Bui Thi Sy and others, immeditately tore a bit of paper off munition cases and sat writing a flash report on their knees, their backs leaning against the gun tripod, for the Front's gun tripod, for the Fronts news bulletin. Between two battles, the men used to gather around the gun tripod to hear An Van Tan recite poems composed on the spot to extol the successes of the

Hardly had the unit ended a daring engagement when Tien Duc wrote a short play

entitled " Hillside Position in praise of the seek-anddestroy spirit.

Cultural and artistic activities have become one of the criteria they strive to achieve in the company emulation drive. Every platoon has its own wallpaper which can be rolled up and moved from place to place. Activists from 3-man teams, squads and platoons have been gathered to form the company's cultural and artistic groups. In this way, after each action, the company has been able to offer a substantial program of entertainments. The unit has also issued monthly reviews dealing with combat experience and introducing its exemplary me

and deeds The booklet "For Peace The booklet "For Peace and Independence" and sto-ries about model fighters and deeds have been read and re-read and discussions, held in every outfit. Good examples are commended in time and multiplied incessantly.

Every gun outfit has its own portable book-case with 5 or 6 books which are passed from hand to hand in the combat position.

Songs have never ceased resounding at Company S.'s position, playing a share in the unit's successes.

Versed in Capturing US Pilot, Expert at Grounding US Plane

Since the day her hus-band joined up, Nguyen Thi Mun, political instructress of the militia platoon of Tu My hamlet, Trung Trach village, Quang Binh province, has been over head and ears in public work; she has managed to get A grade work-points in agr cultural production and her family has had surplus paddy to sell to the state

The Tu My inhabitants never forget the day when her unit was braving enemy's bombs and shells to salvage the people's

"Petite but plucky" said old Bung of her when Mun, at the head of her unit, has captured an American major pilot. It was a pitch dark night. A jet plane sneaked in in an attempt to wreak havoc on her hamlet, but was shot down by our AA defence before doing any harm. Mun saw a flaming torch plummet-ing to earth. Immediately pave orders to her mates she gave orders to her mates to rush in several columns in the direction of the downing plane, while she herself, with a rifle firm in her hand, led small group across a small group across the field despite the frantic drone of US rescue aircraft and the bright light of enemy flares overhead. "That's good. We can better see where the air

pirate is. Hurry up, mates!"
no sooner had she said than a
lighted signal was sent up
by the enemy, revealing the
"pilot's hiding place." Mushouted. In fact Mun saw him
behind an elevated ricefield
dyke. She jired up a shot and
cried, "Hands up!" when her
mates rushed in, ited up the pirate and collected his para-phernalia. In early spring 1968, while

pirate is. Hurry up,

the general offensives and concerted uprisings took place in the South, Mun was entrusted by the Party local committee with the task of com manding a militiawomen unit which had had many engage-ments with enemy planes but could shoot down none. Her team mates chafed as other units had grounded American aircraft. "To down an airplane requires not only courage but intelligence, technique and a good command," Mun said to herself. She had models of various types of American aircraft made to study appro-briate ways of firing at priate ways of firing at fighter bombers and divebombing jets.

One afternoon, taking advantage of a cloudy sky, from the sea two F.105s flew in; the leading one fired some rockets which exploded a dozen metres from her unit, raising a lot of dust and smoke. Mun



"The people are to the army what water is to the fish" goes a saying

warned her mates to watch | the second one which was nose-diving. As soon as she gave the firing signal when 21 bullets scored a direct hit at the intruder.

ill the inhabitants wer bubbling over with joy. Mun was cited as a commander versed in capturing US pilots and expert at grounding US planes. She has received the "Resolute Fighter" title for vears running.

THE OLD MAN OF THE **GUN EMPLACEMENT**

I T was late in the night.
Old Chuan had just returned from the gun em-placement. The sounds of moving caterpillars became more and more audible at this end of the village. Knowing that the armymen were coming.

he rushed out, with a hurri cane-lamb.

No sooner had he reached the highway than the convoy of gun-hauling tractors rattled to a stop. The company leader

(Continued bage 7)



President HO CHI MINH and General VO NGUYEN GIAP (in the First Resistance War)

(Continued from page 1)

Partial insurrections broke out, liberated areas were created and preparations for the General Insurrection were made in the greatest urgency.

In August 1045, an international event of paramount importance proved very propitious to the Vietnamese Revolution: after defeating the German fas-cists, the Soviet Red Army dealt a mortal blow at the Japanese fascists by wiping out their Kwantung Army, and crushed Japanese fascism, the chief enemy of the Vietnamese people at the time. At this great juncture, a national conference of the Party, convened by its Central Committee, decided to launch the General Insurrection to seize power throughout the country. The revolutionary storm was let loose. Within a very short time, the August General Insurrection was successful. Popular revolutionary power was established throughout the country and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam was proclaimed.

The days of the General Insurrection were also days of quick development, beyond all expectation, of the semi-armand armed revolutionary forces Following the triumph of the August Revolution, these became the Army of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam the Viet Nam People's Army

I have just outlined the process and the conditions of the founding and development of the Viet Nam people's armed forces. This process is characterized by the following features:

First, the Viet Nam people's armed forces stem from the political and military line of the Viet Nam Workers' tary line of the Vict Nam Workers Party, Our Party headed by Comrade Ho Chi Minh is the organizer and builder of our people's armed forces. We owe them to our Party and Presi-dent Ho. The leadership of the Party has been the banner guaranteeing

Second, the Viet Nam people's armed forces saw the light and grew up in the revolutionary movement, in the upris ing of the entire Vietnamese people for self-liberation and in the flames of the revolutionary war. It is truly an army born of the people and fighting for the

Third, on the international plane, the birth and growth of the Viet Nam peo-ple's armed forces, just as the develop-ment of the Vietnamese revolution in general, are closely linked with the invincible force of Marxism-Leninism, with the great successes of the Soviet Red Army during the Second World

War, with the development and achieve ments of the socialist camp and of the world revolutionary movement in our

OMRADE Minister, what have been in your opinion the most essential stages of the development of the VietNam People's Army during the past 25 years under the Party's leadership?

FIRST of all I would like to under-score this point: the history of the Vict Nam people's armed forces is ultimately associated with the develop-ment of the Victnamese Revolution. The building and development of our armed forces, as already said above, dates back to the birth of our Party. to the creation of self-defence for-mations and the first guerilla detach-

the August Revolution of 1945 was that of the setting up of the people's armed forces on a tional scale. It was also that of development by leaps and bounds of the Vietnamese Revolution and the Viet Nam people's armed forces. Toge-ther with the entire people, the people's armed forces victoriously carried out the General Insurrection, shattered the Japanese fascist yoke and installed the people's power.

In fact, in the mounting anti-Japanese action for national salvation, and particularly in the glorious days of the General Insurrection, the people's armed forces grew up considerably and became the Viet Nam People's Army immediately after the founding of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. Thus, this prophetic prediction of Comrade Ho Chi Minh in his instructions concerning the creation of the propaganda squad of the Viet Nam Liberation Army came true: "In spite of its modest beginnings, it will have a very glorious. future. It is the embryo of the Liberation Army; it will operate through the length of our country, from South to North."

The period from the August Revolution of 1945 to mid-1954 was that of the training and rapid growth of the Viet Nam people's armed forces; it was

hrazen attacks against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, an helpendent country: they have acquired coins country they have acquired coins can be a call methods and achieved very high country they have acquired coins country they have acquired coins country they have acquired coins country have been consistent to the country they have acquired coins can be a country they have acquired coins can difficulties, devised effective tactions of the country they have acquired coins can be a country high country they have acquired coins can be a country high coun also the period during which, together with the entire people, they victorious-ly carried out the great war of resist-ance against the French imperialists Shortly after the August Revolution and the emergence of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the French colonialists unleashed a new war of entire people, won a very important victory in the fight against US aggres-sion, for national salvation by com-In such a situation, responding to the pletely defeating the war of destruction by the US imperialists. appeal of the Party and the revolu-tionary power headed by President Ho Chi Minh, resolved to "make every sacrifice rather than see their land ruled

Holding high the banner of the Party and President Ho Chi Minh, Party and President Ho Chi Minh, the banner of "determination to defeat the US aggressors," the armed forces and people of North Viet Nam imaginatively applied the line of the people's war and conducted a people's war, of a particular type, fighting

since the signing of the 1954 Geneva Agreements have the guns of the imperialist aggressors been completely stlent in our national territory taker silent in our national territory taken as a whole. Treading in the footsteps of the French imperialists, the US imperialists have launched a very attocious war of aggression with a view to turning South Viet Nam into a neo-colony and a military base of the US; as a result, on the Southern Great Frontline, our 14 million dear fellow-countrymen, continuin traditions of the first sacred continuing the resistance against the French impewar, of a particular type, fighting rislists, have been upholding the against the aggressors chiefly against indonitable spirit of the nation and their air force, together with the releasely waging the second war

and difficulties, devised effective tectrical methods and achieved very high combat efficiency. At present, they are defeating the US imperialists and their lackeys' 1.2 million-strong army armed with up-to-date equipment and composed of the best trained American

The heroic People's Liberation Armed Forces of South Viet Nam, a credit to the armed forces and people of the entire Vietnamese nation, have been doing their valuable bit in the resistance. ance against the US aggression, stead-ily taking it to total victory.

During the past 25 years the Viet-namese nation has written the most magnificent pages of its history. In that period, inspired with a single purpose, it has been, together with its armed forces, credited with extraor-dinary feats and has got the better one after another of three big imperialisms: Japanese fascism, French imperialism and US imperialism. Once again I wish to emphasize that our people's I wish to emphasize that our people's armel forces owe their great accomplishments to the sound and inventive leadership of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, to the immense love and care afforded them by our people, to the generous aid pervaded with proletarian internationalism of the countries in the socialist camp. I would like therefore to take this proportionity to convey fore to take this opportunity to convey our most heartfelt thanks to the Parties, peoples and armies of the fraternal socialist countries for their

OUESTION 3.

OMRADE Minister, what are to your mind the most important factors determining the high combat power of the Viet Nam People's Army and its successes in the fight against the US aggressors?

THE overriding factor of all the great successes of our people and our army, is the judicious and creative revolutionary line and mili-tary line of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the sagacious leadership of the Party headed by President Ho Chi

The Party has been the founder, organizer, educator and leader of the Viet Nam people's armed forces from their creation to the present stage of development. It has creatively squared the fundamental tenets of Marxism-Leninism regarding war and the army with the realities of the Vietnamese Revolution and put into practice Fre Revolution and put into practice Fre-derich Engels's views on the people's war and Lenin's theses on the "new army", an army composed of "polit-ically awakened peasants and workers" "fighting for the emancipation of the oppressed." It has enhanced to a high level the traditions of stubborn and unflinching struggle, of bravery and ingeniosity and the valuable experiences of the Vietnamese nation in its resist-

ance to foreign aggressors all along its centuries-old history. At the same time, the Party has assimilated in an original way the precious lessons ac-quired by the fraternal countries in their armed struggle and in the building of their revolutionary armed forces.

The Party has created an army absolutely loyal to the Fatherland, the people, the socialist and communist ideal, animated by an ardent patriotism, a genuine spirit of proletarian internationalism, always ready to fight internationalism, always ready to fight unyie dingly and possessed of splendid combat qualities. The Viet Nam people's armed forces have proved worthy of the commendations of the Party and President Ho Chi Mini: "Loyal to the Party, dedicated to the people, capable for folfilling and tasks and defeating among memory."

The provided the provi and deteating any enemy." They represent a concrete materialisation of the Vietnamese revolutionary heroism in the present epoch, the epoch of victory of the valiant Vietnamese people over the US imperialist aggressors. rialist aggressors.

The Party leadership over the armed forces is an unqualified, direct and comprehensive one, in the political, ideological and organisational fields as well as in the accomplishment of all the tasks of building, fighting and work.

In the building of the armed forces, our Party has always attached great importance to increasing the combat efficiency of the revolutionary army, combat morale, political consciousness, organisational standard of the command, tactical and technical capacity of the men and officers, the material technical foundations of the army, etc. We also see to the improvement, of the equipment and the training of the troops, thereby providing an ever better material base for the fighting efficiency of the army. However, the first preoccupation of our Party still remains the forging of the man educate and train the fighter cadre, Party member and member of the youth organisation in the army, into a combatant with an ever higher revolutionary conscience, with a passionate love for the Fatherland and socialism, with a will to fight stubbornly to make of him a valiant and clever fighter who is proficient in the use of, and can make the most of, all weapons in his possession to outwit the enemy Such a task is the application of Lenin's teaching: "In whatever war, in the final analysis, what decides victory is the morale of the masses who shed their blood on the battle-Consequently we have given pride of place to political work in the army.

After settling satisfactorily the relationship between man and armaments as said above and taking care to instil a great determination to fight into the armed forces, we have also paid due consideration to the question of strategy and tactics which provide of strategy and tactics which provide the army with tactical forms and methods really efficacious and most suitable to the concrete situation on the operational theatre in Viet Nam. These are combat methods as daring as original which help further enrich the military art of Marxism-Leninism.

It is precisely thanks to such a line that in the conditions of Viet Nam. a country which has neither a very vast territory nor a very large population, our people and our armed forces have been able to pro-

mote to the sentaman the firm will to fight and win, to fight with bravery and intelligence, to put the spirit of the offensive in the attacks against the enemy, to successfully pit an army with limited troop strength against an aggressor superior numerically and equipped with more modeln weapons. against the army of the chieftain of all imperialisms economic and military potential is the biggest in the capitalist world

OUESTION 4

WHAT objectives has the Viet Nam People's Army set for itself in the 25th year of its existence to continue strengthvaliant ening the defence potential of the Democratic Republic of Viet

ANSWED .

THE Yankee imperialists are heading for an evident failure and doubt-lessly for total defeat. However, tessily for total defeat. However, they remain very stubborn. The Nixon administration is pursuing the war of aggression and nurturing the illusion of aggression and naturing the mission of extricating itself from the critical si-tuation through the "de Americanisa-tion" and progressive "Vietnamisa-tion" of the war, trying to impose neocolonialism on South Viet Nam and perpetuate the division of our country. On the other hand, in spite of the On the other hand, in spite of the bitter setbacks of their war of aggres-sion, the US imperialists continue air recommission flights and provocations, violating the sovereignty, and threat-ening the scurrty, of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and piling up crimes against our people. At the same time, they are stepping up their inter-vention [and] aggression against Laos and Cambodia.

Viet Nam is one country, the Vietnamese people are one nation. So long as South Viet Nam, the other half of our country so dear to us, remains under the yoke of the US imperialist aggressors, North Viet Nam cannot enjoy a genuine peace. In consequence, the most sacred task of our entire people at present is to keep up our stubborn fight until we defeat com-pletely the US imperialist aggressors, liberate the South, defend the North and ultimately achieve the reunification of the country.

Together with our people throughout the country, our people's armed forces are resolved to translate into deeds President Ho Chi Minh's instructions: So long as a single aggressor remains in the territory, we must fight on and sweep him away".

While the North of our country is doing its best to fulfil its duty as the Great Rear toward the Great Frontline of the South, the Viet Nam people's armed forces never forget their avy responsibilities in the defence of e socialist North, revolutionary base of the entire country. They are increase their combat power in all

THE FOUNDING, DEVELOPMENT AND PRESENT TASKS OF THE VIET NAM PEOPLE'S ARMY

the US imperialists. During that period, our armed forces, side by side with the

the firm resolve to wipe out the aggres-During the nine years of our Resistance, confronted with an enemy having a military and economic potential many times bigger, the Viet Nam peo-ple's armed forces, side by side with the entire people, displayed an unbend-ing will to rely on their own efforts to defy innumerable privations and hard-ships and to flight courageously and stubbornly and wipe' out the greatest number of enemy troops possible while preserving and building up their own potential. From disparate units, exclusively infantry, equipped with radi-mentary weapons, they gradually grew, in the crucible of war, into more and more important main force units before becoming big units composed of different services. Starting essentially with gue-tilla warfare, they later became able to conduct offensive campaigns of ever bigger scale, and accomplished their tasks, worthy of being the hard core

va Conference, the restoration of peace in Indo-China and the complete libera-tion of North Viet Nam. From 1954 to 1964, it was the period of the building of the army of the socialist State in the conditions of restored peace in the North, with a view to defending the socialist North, contributing to its building in order to make it a steady revolutionary base for the whole country.

of the people's war of resistance. The most characteristic event in this period was the great Dien Bien Phu victory for

which they shared the credit with the

rest of the people, making a decisive contribution to the success of the Gene-

and US interventionists.

aggression on our territory.

by foreigners and live in slavery", the armed forces and entire people of Viet Nam waged a protracted people's

war of resistance on all fronts with

After the conclusion of the Geneva Agreements. Viet Nam has been tempo rarily divided into two zones. The Vict-namese Revolution entered a new stage, that of consolidation of peace, of strug-gle for the reunification of the country and for the building of socialism in North Viet Nam

Confronted with the above-mentioned situation and tasks, our people's armed forces have not ceased developing the qualities inherent in their nature and fine traditions, stepping up the training of troops in order to become a revolu-tionary, regular and modern army; at the same time, they have been striving to increase their vigilance and stand ready at all time to fight the enemy. Side by side with the rest of the people, they have foiled all bellicose manoeuvres and war provocations of the enemy accomplishing with merits all the tasks entrusted to them by the people.

From the end of 1964 and early 1965, while escalating their war of aggression in South Viet Nam, the US imperialists threw their air and naval forces into forces of the regular army, the regional forces and the people's militia for-mations as the core. Making use of all kinds of arms at their disposal: rifles, machineguns, anti-aircraft guns of all calibres, surface-to-air missiles, jet fighter aircraft, etc. our people's armed forces wove a powerful fire network over the whole country: they eventually exploded the mythical "sapremacy" of US air power, dealing at both the modern Air Force and Navy of the US hard and deserving blows. Thanks to the lucid and inventive leadership of the Party, the great vitality of the socialist regime, a high revolutionary heroism and the precious and important aid of the fraternal socialist countries, never before had the national defence forces of our

VIET NAM COURIER

entire people, with the anti-aircraft

imperialists and their hench men.

December 22, 1944: General VO NGUYEN GIAP reading the

Soldiers' Oath on the day of the formation of the first unit of

the Viet Nam People's Army

Under the able leadership of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and, since recently, also of the Provisional Revolutionary Gov-ernment of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the armed forces and people of the heroic South have recorded a series of splendid successes in the last few years. In particular, since the beginning of 1968, they have mounted series of general attacks and uprisings and scored brilliant unprecedented achievements on all fronts, military, political and diplomatic. These have been considerable military exploits of a people's war brought to a very high

the national delence forces of our people developed to such a high level on all fronts and grown so quickly as in the years of resistance against the US imperialists. At present, the people's armed forces of Viet Nam consist of solid main force units with different services provided with monoid engineent; they also included positions of the viet of the propers of the people's armed forces of viet Nam viet of the viet Nam People's different services provided with monoid engineent; they also included positions of their deep the people's militial properties of the viet of the vi



LPF MEMORANDUM ON US **GROWING USE OF "SPECIAL FORCES"**

THE Laotian Patriotic Front has recently issued a memorandum on accelerated formation and use by the US imperial-ists of "Special Forces" in their war of aggression in

The memorandum recalls that after the signing of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on traditional "divide and rule" policy, the US imperialists policy, the US imperialists egged their Vientiane stooges on to create the "Meo Au-tonomous Region", the "Kha Autonomous Region", etc. They also gave orders to chieftains to issu weapons highlanders to fight the rev olution, and pressganged the mountain dwellers into an army called "Special Forces"

The US imperialists have made the bandit Vang Pao 'leader" of the Meo nation ality and "commander in chief" of the "Special Forces". The organization equipment, training, com-mand and marshalling of forces of that army are sumed by American officers themselves

Denouncing US interference in Laos' affairs, Senator Fulbright, Chairman of the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, said that the US had defrayed 150 miltion dollars a year to proup the Laotian clandestine

From bandit gangs and commandos led by the French colonialists, the "Special Forces" have grad-ually become an army several tens of thousands strong with a complete set-up and commanding system. Senato Fulbright revealed that the "Special Forces" had 36,000 men divided into 80 battal ions called "special battalions", "voluntary battalions", "clandestine army" "mobile groups". Beside this army is composed special commando units which the US imperialists have introduced in the pa triotic forces' free areas to spot bombing targets and give help to downed Amer-

Thousands of bandits' and commandos for sabotage missions have been traine in Thailand, Japan and the US, Many US and Thai mixed commando groups have been responsible for their training and command.

On the US imperialists' orders, the Thai and South those of the "Special Forces" in spying on and sabotaging the patriotic forces' rear, chiefly the areas bordering

The memorandum de nounces that all the "Special Forces" in Laos have been

placed under the US special supreme command of HQ.333 in Udorn. They are not un-der the command of the US war machine in Vientiane This special supreme command has its representation near Vang Pao at Long Cheng, HQ and refuge of the 'Special Forces" in Laos, and also near the HQ of the "second military sector" nominally "commanded" by Vang Pao. Long Cheng, an area entirely kept secret,

into capital city of the so-called "Meo nationality". One of the cardinal roles of the "Special Forces" is to launch attacks and operations of encroachment on the free areas and set up mili-tary bases from which nibbling actions can be mounted by the US and its lackeys.

has been built by the US imperialists and turned

Pa Thi, one of the most important bases before its liberation by the patriotic armed forces, was built and

into a modern radar station called Ta Can, covering the whole of the free area in Upper Laos and part of the DRVN territory. Ta Can base, swayed by 20 American and their military specialists, commanded the air raids on the free zone in Upper Laos and the DRVN.

The memorandum said that the most typic encroaching attack was the "Kou Kiet" operation launched in August 1969 in Xieng Khuoang involving over 30 "Special Forces" battalions 'Special Forces" and supported by thousands of American "Green Berets" Thai combat troops and US

The memorandum con cludes that despite all their perfidious and brutal manocuvres, the American imperialists and their myrmi dons cannot ward off defeat. get out of their political isolation and stave off the collapse of the "Special

SON MY CRIME CONDEMNED BY CAMBODIAN ROYAL GOVERNMENT

(December 13, 1969 statement)

THE Royal Government of Cambodia was pleased to learn that the US Government, under pressure of public opinion, admitted for the first time that US troops were responsible for the war crime at Son My (South Viet Nam). The extermination of 500 defenceless Vietnamese civilians, including women and children, can thus be listed after the atrocities condemned twenty years ago by the Nuremberg Tribunal.

It should be recalled however that the Son My It should be recatled however that the Son My massacre was prededed and followed by other killings of civilians still kept in the dark to date, and that thousands of women and children were and are still murdered by US troops. To these war crimes are also added to see the still murdered by the still be used to be seen and the still murdered by the still seen to be seen as the added to see the still murdered by the still seen the st crimes are also added terrorist air raids, sprayings of toxic chemicals, etc. imputable to the US total war of destruction in Viet Nam.

The Royal Government still hopes that all coun-The Royal Government still hopes that all countries in the world and great international organizations will succeed in persuading the American rulers to put an end to the outburst of savagery that the war of aggression in Viet Nam is. It points out on this occasion that Cambodia is also a victim and recalls the systematic murder of fourteen Cambodian peasants--men, women and chil-dren--by helicopter pilots on June 29, 1968 at Svay A Ngong, the sprayings of toxic chemicals at Mi-mot in April and May 1969, and the recent mur-derous attack on Dak Dam post and locality.

At the present juncture, the Royal Government cannot give the slightest credit to the professions of peace of the US government, which are utterly at variance with daily truth. Only a total withdrawal of US aggressive forces from Viet Nam and respect of the principle of non-interference in internal affairs of the Indo-Chinese people will show US sincerity.

In the USA

3rd Moratorium Against Viet Nam War

A new campaign of protest against the US war of aggression in Viet Nam or an immediate and withdrawal of US total troops from South Viet Nam has flared up in many cities of the United States.

Meetings, demonstrations, talks, public discussions, special religious services, readings of the names of Gls killed in Viet Nam, distributions of leaflets against the war, and collections of funds for peace organizations, have been held in many parts of the country.

Organizers of the third moratorium did not plan to stage mammoth meetings parades in big cities like the two previous occasions in October and November. They instead intended to spread the movement geographically so as to cover as many localities and people as possible.

A demonstration under the motto "Withdraw imme. diately all US troops from Viet Nam" took place on December 12 in Portland Oregon). An important group of federal functionaries staged an anti-war meeting in Washington. In Columbus (Ohio), the participants in a meeting observed a minute of silence in memory of the victims of US aggression in Viet Nam

Also on December 12, antiwar protesters in Washing-ton declared a one-day hun-ger strike. Many Harvard. University students were on hunger-strike yesterday and today. Teachers and professors of primary and secondary schools in the USA went to classes on December 12 with mourning

Students of the Syracuse University (New York) have collected signatures to an appeal for an end to that dirty war.

A candle procession took ing a festival for peace during which many partici pants spoke against. US policy in Viet Nam.

Also on December, 12 painters in New York inaugurat-ed an exhibition whose gate money would go to the anti-war fund. Anti-war messages and letters have been pouring endlessly into the US administration offices and various papers' editorial boards.

On December 13, participants in the Congress of Young Democrats' Clubs in Las-Vegas (Nevada) called for the pulling out of all US troops out of South Viet Nam. Addressing Congress, Senator E. Muskie criticized Nixon for "turning his back" on the demands of US opinion for an end to the Viet Nam war.

On the same day, at the gathering of more than 1,000 anti-war protestors in New York, Mayor Lindsay said: "For the sake of our children, for the sake of our country, we must get out of this wretched war right now.

On December 14 war dis sentient groups called a demonstration in Chicago's Grant Park against the Nam war and the Son My slaughter by US troops.

In Tucson (Arizona), stu-dents of the University of Arizona appeared at local churches and synagogues to distribute anti-war ture. Bill White, Vice-Pres dent of the local students organisation, said some students also planned to fast from next Saturday through December 24 to protest the continued US involvement in Viet Nam.

At Cambridge, Massachu setts, about 2,300 Harvard and Radcliffe students were to end a 30-lour fast

Reuter reported that antiwar activities took place in other parts of the USA. People invited their neighbours in to talk about the war. Leaflets were distributed and small marches, vigils and candle procession

On December 15, more 100 Americans other nationals in Hong-kong staged a vigil protest against the Viet Nam war at the American consulate They held up placards and banners with slogans urging the US government to sto

The protest action was sponsored by the American kong and the Hongkong International Committee against the War in Viet Nam.

While the anti-war cam paign was spreading across the United States, demonstrations also took place in strations also took place in many West German cities, including Bonn, Aachen, Gottingen, Dortmund and

A Bonn report said the demonstration in Heidelberg was most violent. 500 de-monstrators stormed "Amer-ica House" and the America Express Bank

GI Denounces Another Crime of His Buddies

superiors, he narrowly escaped a "mistaken fire" from

an American patrol which, as if by chance, included one of the four participants

The French paper | France | nim this conscience and what | Soir published on October 29 | nasty things it has brought the following story 'The him: in addition to the raping, then mundering of a young South Victainues by from his comrades and young South Vietnamese by four US soldiers is shocking

A N atrocious story is shocking the Americans. It is about a young South Vietnamese beaten, raped and finally murdered by an American patrol. The report was put out by the magazine New Yorker following the confession by one member this patrol...

The rape and murder of a young South Vietnamese girl by four American sol-diers—who came to pick her up as an animal in a hut where she was sleeping with her parents, forced her to join their patrol, made her carry their package, abused her for 24 hours on end, then murdered her in cold blood "so that she does not speak out "- will eventually become the subject of a film some day

of the American staff, this the name of a woody peak in the High Plateaux where the four GI's left their victim with multiple stabbings and ber skull shattered by bullets. And if their denouncer—the fifth soldier who participated in the patrol and witnessed the events in horror—has broken his silence to the American press which he had kept for two years for fear of vengeance against himself, his wife and his child, it is mented by remorses.

zine last week, "The Crime on Hill 192" has horri-fied the Americans, not only by its atrocious content but also because it reveals the mentality of an army where, from officers down to the cank-and-file blamed the crime which they considered " normal 'of no importance" and where pressures and menaces, veiled or not, were used against the "denouncer".

"Your accasations," the captain told him, "risk to blemish the image of the army at the very when the latter is facing combat dangers: The enemy of the affair for his propa-

In spite of this and other things, the soldier Eriks-son—the pseudo-name he son—the pseudo-name he adopted when he gave his famous account-persisted in demanding justice for little Phan Thi Mao whose memory haunted his con-

Back today in his native Minnesota where he has resumed his former career as a carpenter, Eriksson knows what still may cost

involved in "the crime on Hill 192" before the four were arrested, Written in plain terms, Eriksson's version revolts the conscience of Americans since the affair took place in South Viet Nam and little Phan Thi Mao, 18 years old, was an "ally" of those vears whom, precisely, the Ame ican army is supposed to protect and defend against the "horrors of the sion from the North".

On November 16. Eriksson related, the lieu-tenant detailed him and three of his buddies and a sergeant for a five-day resance patrol in Bony Son valley.

To his great astonishment, Eriksson heard the sergeant declare: "We're going to seek a girl and take her along. This is good for the morale of the soldier..."

But the following morning, when the patrol set out, he saw that the sergeant went not in the direction of the valley, but towards the miserable Cat Tuong hamlet There, always under the sergeant's conduct, the three men-Eriksson left outside brutally broke into the huts where the peasants and their families were still sleeping At the fifth hut, the ser geant got out brandishing the electric torch in a triumphal manner, shouting: "There is a pretty girl therein, she

The three others hurried in to drag the young girl out of her hut. Terrified, the young Vietnamese clung to her sister, Phan Thi Loc, and to her mother who dragged herself along at the feet of the soldiers latter quickly tied Mao's hands behind her back and half carried her away. The mother ran screaming after them, holding a kerchief of the young girl in her hand.

"Thanks", said one of the soldiers ironically when the mother caught up with them, and he thrusted the kerchief into the mouth of the young girl to silence her. Exhaust ed, the mother fell to the ground. The patrol left with the captive.

during which the sergeant hung his heavy package the frail shoulders of young girl as if she had been a donkey. The team finally came to an abandoned small hut. The five soldiers ate outside. Mao, who was given nothing to eat, was inside.

After the meal, the sergeant stretched himself out and said: "It is time for recreation". As Eriksson shows his disapproval, the sergeant became angry and warned him that if he did not go on, he could well be victim

Eriksson successively saw Eriksson successively saw his four companions enter the hut and get out of it untidy and hilarious. From inside, came the cries and sobbings of little Mao. The "orgy" lasted about two hours after which the ser-regart audited. geant and three men left again on patrol leaving the prison-er under the guard of the fourth man. On their return in the evening, the same scenes were renewed and the sergeant, exasperated by the girl's cries, declared that he might have to "finish it off". After discussion, the men decided to kill Mao. The sergeant insisted that it should be a "collective act".

The following day the group returned to near the hilltop, dragging Mao who had fever and was coughing. When he arrived, the sergeant saw in the plain five men who, realizing that they had been spotted, opened fire. The patrol returned fire and right by means of his field radio. The lieutenant replied that he would send a heli-copter. Thus, Mao must be got rid of quickly.

The sergeant sent Eriksson and another man to stand guard, and together with the others he dragged Mao

"I heard a cry," Eriksson related, "and a kind of dry cry of a deer or an elk when stabbed by a hunter".

The three men appeared again, and at this moment again, and at this moment Eriksson saw Mao dragging herself on her fours like a wounded animal trying to flee away. "Fire", shouted the sergeant and the men let go their shots at the same time. (Eriksson shot in the air). The girl collapsed into a bush. One man ran up and fired a coup de grace.

Revolutionary Rule...

(Continued from page 8)

the enemy enslaving education and corrupt culture.

ation and press in the liber

ation and press in the liber-ated zone have also made good progress. Many artistic and literary works of vari-ous kinds have appeared; cinematography, dramatic

vements have won encourag-Literature, arts, inform-

This brief account shows that revolutionary power in South Viet Nam is a mighty force as it springs their strong support. present achievements foretell future ones, more important still both in combat and art and painting have been advancing by leaps and still both in bounds. Many of these achie-

The Old Man of the Gun Emplacement

(Continued from page 3)

alighted from a carriage and warmly said, "Well not yet gone to bed?"

" No. like everyone in the village, we are waiting for

Then, Old Chuan took the company leader for a round of the gun emplacement.

Some time earlier, when it was first built, the gunners had had to go and fetch leaf camouflage although they canouslage although they were busy with their fighting job. Seeing that, Old Chuan approached other village elders and raised the problem.

" We must plant as many trees as we can to keep the, gun site shady and refreshing and to give our armymen more time to relax so that they

Everybody agreed with him. Next day Old Chuan went about urging villagers to bring banana and bamboo trees and other green stuffs to the combat position. The tree planting team of the village's old folk even contributed saplings of tirtrees and sandal wood from their nursery

From that day, Old Chuan was seen everyday at the gun the banana trees and fir trees. After a rain, he drained off the water to save the plants from water logging and make the gun emplacement dry and clean. He also kept communication trenches in good condition.

More than 40 battles had been fought at this position. Chuan. He was affect In everyone of them, he was present right at the start. the gun emplacement.

The fighting over, he quickly joined the gunners and mili tiamen in clearing the battle

After each attion, he plant ed new trees to replace those destroyed by bombs and shells and tended those slightly hit

He also encouraged the inhabitants to extend communication trenches in the village to the gun emplacement for rapid and safe ammunition service or evacuation of the wounded.

Dozens of units came and went. Before leaving, the armymen never failed to call on Old Chuan

"Well Dad, we hand over the gun emplacement and place it in your and the village's care.

Every time, our old man answered with pleasure.

Don't worry about that,
Try to bag many more enemy
planes. That's all that you have to do. We'll look atte the gun emplacement just as our own houses.

Day in day out, Old Chuan saw to it that the place was tidy and in good order just trees grew luxuriantly Many had borne fruit. Rows of fir trees and sandal-wood alread cast their shade over foot tracks. Shoots began to sprout at dozens of bamboo groves

Any unit which had fough at this gun emplacement treas-ured a vivid memory of Old Chuan. He was affectionately known as "The old man of

THE FOUNDING, DEVELOPMENT...

(Continuea from page 5)

fields, to strengthen their will to fight and win, to improve their combat qualities and heighten their vigilance, standing at all times ready to fight and fight well, to shoulder all their obligations toward the people and nation.

For the independence and freedom of the Fatherland, for socialism, for the accomplisment of their noble internationalist duty. the Viet Nam people's armed forces, like the rest of the Vietnamese people, are deter-mined to fight gression, for national salvation, thereby making a meritorious contribution to the revolutionary cause of the world's peoples.

Before the radiant future of the Vietnamese Revolution, our people and our

people's armed forces feel most deeply in-debted to their vanguard Party and venerat-ed Comrade Ho Chi Minh, their great leader. He is no more, Uncle Ho, our beloved teacher and father who showed such deep solicitude for them, who guided and educated them from their birth to their maturity.
but the incomparable example and the
solicitous teachings he has bequeathed us will remain for ever alive in our haarts. In order to be worthy of his immense work and of his boundless affection, our people's armed forces have taken the solemn pledge to fully implement his historic last directions, to push forward, together with the entire ple, the resistance to US aggression, for people, the resistance to US aggression, for national salvation, and to bring it to total victory while carrying out satisfactorily the building of socialism, never deviating from the glorious path charted by the Party and President Ho Chi Minh.

Revolutionary Rule Keeps MILITARY OPERATIONS On Consolidating and Developing

THE

A T present, four-fifths of South Viet Nam with 11 million people out of a total of 14 million are under the revolutionary rule which has established itself which has established itself in 41 provinces and towns, over 150 districts and 1,300 villages among South Viet Nam's 1600. Big cities like Saigon, Hue, Dalat, Da Nang, Can Tho already have their people's revolutionary adminpeople's revolutionary admin-istration and popular power is spreading to disputed areas or in areas controlled by the enemy. In some committees the proportion of woman members reaches up to 40 or even 50 per cent.

This extension of revolu-onary power has thrown tionary power has thrown panic among the US-puppets who vainly seek to destroy or discredit this power which belongs to the people, comes from them and works for them. Under its guidance the people are fighting, intensify-ng production, building and leveloping their revolutionary forces and improving their living conditions.

In particular, revolution-ary power guarantees to the peasantry the ownership of their land. Up to new about Yet Nom's filled land out of nearly 4,5 unilion have been definitively or temporarily distributed. In particular, revolution

Irrigation work of digging canals, building of dams... has been developed under the motto "No waste land, no landless peasant", the

eagerly with farming and in several places, particularly in the Mekong Delta, it has obtained a better yield: 3 to 4 tons of paddy per hectare for one crop, and even 6 to 10 tons ome places

an some piaces.

Animal husbandry, handicraft, by-trades, the manufacture and repair of agricultural implements have blossomed. Several villagers in Central Trung Bo have reached the target set for stockbreeding (a pigs and 4 dowls per family). It some fowls per family). It some blefts each family rears one pig and 40 fowls in an averience of the second power of the second power of the second property of the second power o pig and 40 fowls in an average. In others, there are up to 10,000 fish ponds.

The revolutionary power has also granted credit to the peasants, supplied them with production means and provided help to the victims of natural calamities, and war. With regard to the ethnic minorities it has adequately catered for their needs in salt and staple consumer goods. consumer goods.

A kind of "communal charter" has been establish-ed in the villages of the liberated zone, setting the citizen's obligations and duties in the management of public affairs.

The preservation and amelioration of the public health enjoys constant care from revolutionary power. Today the liberated zone is endowed

sanitary network with a saintary which extends from the centre down to the hamlets, with an increasing staff of medical workers who are at at the same time fighters against the US aggressors and warners, and with laboration of the same time for the same time fighters are the same time fighters are the same time for against the US aggressors and puppets, and with labora-tories capable of making out of local material Eastern specialties and Western specialties such as Vitamins Br, C and Br2, Filatov, serums, novocain, anaesthetics, sub-tilis. Particular importance has been attached to prophy-

Education has made headway. Despite countless diffi-culties the people's power has set up a comprehensive system of classes from liter-acy up to secondary ones with a unified syllabus. Regular education for children goes along with popular education for grown ups. The teaching personnel increases with every passing day. More than 90 per cent of school-age children go to school. Every year from 80 to 90 per cent and sometimes all children are admitted to higher classes or successfully pass their year-end exams Numerous are those wh have become "gallant fight-ers" against US aggression have become "gallant fight-ers" against US aggression or puppet domination while studying. 17 national minor-ities now have their own scripts. Education in the liberated areas has also actively contributed to check

(Continued page 7)

FIRST TEN DAYS OF DECEMBER

THE PLAF RUSHED MANY POSITIONS INSIDE THE ENEMY DEFENCE PERIMETER AND FOUGHT OFF MANY ENEMY SWEERS

ENEMY DEFENCE TACKED EVERYWHERE

THE highlights of PLAF actions were the attacks on the enemy in the Mekong Delta, Southwest of where from Dec. 1 to 10, eight provincial capitals including My Tho, Can Tho and Ben Tre, as well as many other smaller urban centres, came under fire.

In My Tho, Ben Tre and Kien Tuong provinces, apart from the assaults on the night from December 2 to 3 already mentioned our previous issue, Giai Phong Press Agency has reported further onsets on December 10 which brought the enemy losses in these provinces to ten companies wiped out or decimated, a police CP destroyed, 200 members of the "pacification" teams and 100 puppet militiamen and 15 cannons, mortars and machineguns put out of action and 3 elicopters shot down.

In three other Mekong Delta provinces, Rach Gia. Ca Mau and An Giang, from December 1 to 6, 3 puppet companies including one of the Marines were knocked out or depleted, 150 puppet troops disabled, two war vessels sunk.

On the Northwestern front of Saigon, in Tay Ninh province, 500 enemy cas-ualties were reported and 15 helicopters shot down between November 30 to December 4. An artillery unit composed of young women twice pounded at a base-camp of the 2nd Brigade of the Tropic Lightning Division, exacting a toll of 134 GIs, blasting out of com-mission 14 helicopters and 6 military vehicles and blotting out an arms depot.

Further to the East, near Bu Dop, 130 adverse men were put out of action and 4 aircraft including 3 jets shot down on December 3 during two battles.

Closer to Saigon, at 52 km West-southwest of the city, the Duc Hue camp of the Special Forces" were heavshelled on December 7 and 8, and 3 ro5mm cannons were wrecked. In Saigon itself, the guerillas on Dec. 8 struck at the police station of the 6th district and a bridge on the city outskirts. In the district of Cu Chi (32km Northwest of Saigon) famous for the exploits of its guerillas, the latter put out of action so enemy soldiers and 8 military vehicles between Dec. 2 and 7.

At 154km East of Saigon, the CP of the Phan Thiet military sector, the rearbase of the 44th puppet Regiment, a battalion and a cantonment of the US armoured forces near the town were raided from Dec. 2 to 4. The PLAF inflicted 240 casual-ties, destroyed 17 vehicles and 5 cannons. A hundred kilometres to the Northeast, on December 3 the patriots wrote off the musterroll a company of puppet militia.

Further to the North, a company of the 47th puppet Regiment and 3 militia squads took heavy 300km Southeast of Da Nang. while in the area close to the 17th parallel, in the first days of December the enemy lost 170 men, 2 helicopters downed and 17 vehicles destroyed.

> ENEMY SWEEPS BEATEN OFF

N the Mekong Delta, on December 1, air waves of enemy attacks were repelled at a place 170 km South-west of Saigon in the prov-ince of An Giang. A hundred puppet troops were killed or wounded during these ac-tions. On Dec. 10, near Tuyen Binh, 95 km West-northwest of Saigon, an enemy patrol was engaged in heavy fighting, losing a company of "Rangers" and a squad of puppet scouts.

In Ben Tre province, the PLAF December 3, assailed 5 puppet companies, and struck off the strength or decimated four others at Binh Dai, 55km South of Saigon.

Enemy naval patrols were hit in the Mekong Delta and four vessels sent to the bottom on two rivers.

Motorized columns of the nemy were intercepted on the various roads near Bu Dop and Hon Quan, North of Saigon, and 13 vehicles were destroyed in the same

On the Western High Plateaux, an armoured squadron of the puppet 3rd Regiment fell into an ambush North of Pleiku and was forced to turn back after losing ten vehicles destroyed.

Puppet Nguyen Van Thieu's Frenzied Clamour

T is reported from Saigon that, on December that, on December 9, 11 and 12, 1969 puppet President Nguyen Van Thieu blasted his opponents as "communists" and "neutralists" and threatened to behead them. He called them "cowards" and "ignoramuses" who had upheld a policy of "compromise" and opted a political settlement.

His frenzied reaction was to cope with his political predicament created by the to cope with his political predicament created by the mounting opposition of his adversaries, chiefly of the townsfolks, to his policy of serving Nixon's war prolongation. AFP reported on Dec. 2 that the Students' General Association in Sai-gon had sent to American students a letter welcoming their anti-Viet Nam war actions and protesting against the U.S. "Vietnamization" policy in which Vietnamese were set against Vietnamese.

students de manded that US troops be completely withdrawn so that sovereignty and freedom be restored to South Viet Nam. The Giai Phong press correspondent in Saigon reported that supported by other sections of the people in their action against sequels of the prolongation of the war, the students had set up a "Committee for the Defence of the Citizens Right to Live" and launched a campaign against gutter culture and for the rehabil-itation of the national culture. In a teach-in on attended also by Dec. 3 attended also by many politicians, the Saigon academic circles came out against the puppet rulers' impoverishment of the people and gagging of the press.

The same correspondent said that at a Conference held at the end of Novem-

ber, the Buddhist delegates exposed the Saigon Buddhists and suppression of the freedom of belief. At of the freedom of this gathering, Superior Bonze Thich Thien Hoa, Chairman of the Buddhist Chairman of the Religious Institute for I the policy of Buddhism and restore peace. He flayed Thieu-Ky-Huong's misuse of the nation and people, hanging on war and lending for eigners a hand to pile up death and destruction and to impose neo colonialism on the Vietnamese people." He that however powerful the US might be, it would be defeated by the Vietnamese, the war would come to an end and the traitors to the country would be condemned by history.